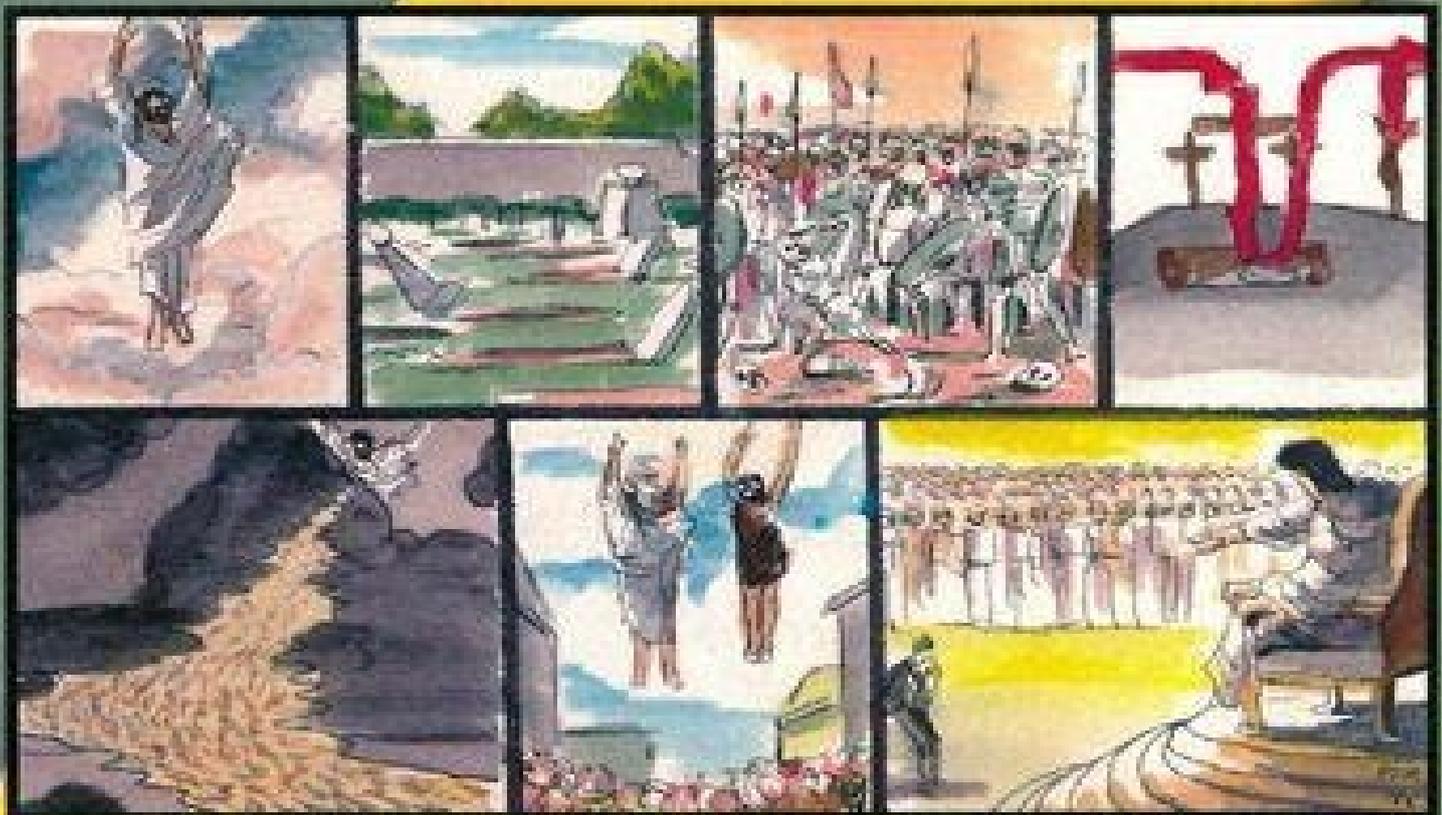


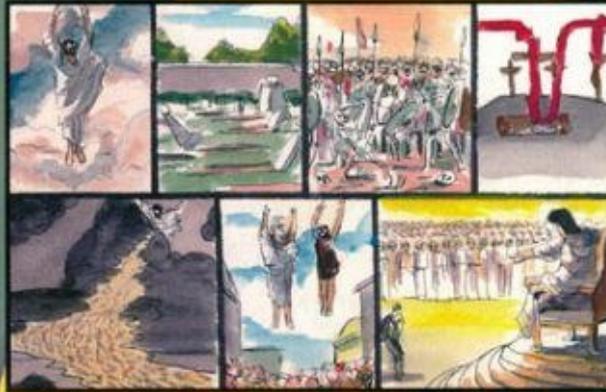
SEVEN RESURRECTIONS



Sermon Preached By

Dr. Peter S. Ruckman

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Seven Resurrections

Take your Bibles and turn to 1 Corinthians 15 and let's study for awhile about the Seven Resurrections. There's not one, there's not two resurrections—there's seven of them. The Bible speaks about the first and second resurrections, the resurrection of the quick and the dead; those are the two main resurrections. But there are five more, and we'll learn about them.

You're acquainted with this first resurrection in 1 Corinthians 15, so you won't have any trouble with it. In 1 Corinthians 15:14–19 he's been talking about the resurrection of Christ. And he says about Christ's resurrection **“And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins.”** We're found false prophets and false witnesses if Christ hasn't risen from the dead.

One

All right, Resurrection Number One: “Low in the grave He lay, Jesus my Saviour, waiting the coming day, Jesus my Lord. Up from the grave He arose with a mighty triumph o'er His foes. He arose a victor from the dark domain and He lives forever with His saints to reign.”

The first resurrection is the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ's body came up from the dead. His literal body came up from the dead. He said to the disciples **“A spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see me have”** (Luke 24:39).

Every Easter in America they start this stuff about Easter and the resurrection—“to Christ's disciples it seemed as though He lived forever and ever, and Christ's spirit still dwells with us today” and those other substitutes for the fact that He got up out of the hole bodily and went back up to Glory. Every Easter that stuff comes out about “And He lives on in the hearts of His disciples.” Man, He doesn't live on in the hearts of His disciples alone. He's up there at the right hand of God the Father. Flesh and bones. Someday I'll see Him. Like the song says, “Oh, I want to see Him, look upon His face,” and someday I'm going to do it.

All right, do you know the outstanding thing that makes Christianity different from all other religions? It's the fact that its Saviour came up from the tomb, and if anybody ever found one bone of Jesus Christ, our religion wouldn't be worth the powder and shot it'd take to blow it to Hell. If I had rows full of Buddhists and Taoists and Confucians and

Krishnas here today, I'd stand flat footed and tell them that any one of those religions could survive without its founder. Anybody can be a Buddhist with a dead Buddha in the grave. Anybody can be a good Confucianist with a dead Confucius. The body of the religious leader doesn't affect any religion in this world except Christianity. You find the body and Biblical Christianity is gone.

One time a missionary was over in India, and he saw, supposedly, the bones of Buddha being paraded down the street. He muttered something to himself, and a Hindu standing there who understood English said, "What are you saying?" And he said, "I was just thinking—if they could find one bone of my leader, my religion wouldn't be worth preaching." That's the truth.

The truth of the matter is that if you could find one finger bone of Jesus Christ, I would have to quit preaching tonight. You say, "Well, you could make a living." I wouldn't want to make a living preaching a lie. If I had to preach a lie, I'd quit. There's an easier way to make a living than this. You don't think there's an easier way to make a living than this? Try it!

If you think it's an easy way to make a living—getting up and standing and calling folks what they are and telling them what they are and having them put their microscopes on you and analyze you and dissect you and take you apart and roast you every day for dinner and look at your kids and say, "Preacher's kids, preacher's kids"; why, if you think there isn't an easier way to make a living than that, you don't know very many ways to make a living. I know a lot of ways that are easier than that. I used to run a popcorn machine, used to life guard, used to mix drinks in a bar, used to play drums in a dance band; I was an infantry platoon leader in a rifle company for several years. There's lots of easier ways to make a living than this. If you don't believe it, try it. Man, join the Army. A dollar a day and the work ain't hard. Never hurry, never worry, never volunteer; stay away from the orderly room, keep your mouth shut; if it's moving, salute it; if it's lying down, pick it up; if you can't pick it up, paint it. Those are general orders. There are easier ways to make a living than preaching a lie.

All right, He arose from the dead. Did you know the best news this world ever heard didn't come from a radio station? And it didn't originate on TV. The best news this world ever heard was never published by *Life*, *Look*, *Newsweek*, or *Time* magazines. The greatest news this world ever heard came from a graveyard. The women came in there and said, "We're looking for Jesus." An angel said "**He is not here: for he is risen**" (Matt. 28:6).

Now, you tell me something science has done in the past 4,000 years that can compete with that! Do you know what science can do for me when I die? Nothing! Do you know what they can do for me after I'm dead? Nothing. When I lie down there in the dust and ashes and the maggots cover me like old Job says, "**worms destroy this body**" (Job 19:26), I've got the good news and I didn't get it from a newspaper or a magazine or a boob tube or a radio station. I got it from a graveyard. "**He is not here: he is risen.**"

I'm going up! I'm going up! You see this old wreck of a body here? This body has been purchased, and someday I'm going to get a new one, and there's no news as good as

that. None!

All right, the first resurrection is Christ rose from the dead. Paul said, **“For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures”** (1 Cor. 15:3–4). If that isn’t true, I’m a liar. If that isn’t true, your faith is vain. If that isn’t true, I’m dead in my sins, and you are dead in your sins, and I have no message for you (1 Cor. 15:17).

Two

The next resurrection is found in the same passage in verse 23. In 1 Corinthians 15:23 it says **“Christ the firstfruits.”** Look at the plural—**“Christ the firstfruits.”** You see the plural—the S? Not Christ the firstfruit—**“Christ the firstfruits.”** See the plural? Somebody came up with Him. In the second resurrection the bodies of the saints that slept arose and were seen in the city following His resurrection. The graves opened.

Take your Bibles and turn to Matthew 27:45, 50–54. The Bible says darkness covered the earth, and the **“veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom... And the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints which slept arose...and went into the holy city, and appeared unto many.”** Something happened out there in the graveyard. Somebody went out there, and the holes were opened, the dirt was all dug around, the stones across the tomb were all taken aside and thrown aside. In the second resurrection, Old Testament saints came up from the dead. The Bible says that some of them went into downtown Jerusalem at night and appeared to many (Matt. 27:53). And you know, I’ve never heard a sermon on that, but wouldn’t that make a sermon?

Boy, you talk about Halloween night! How would you like to have been down in Jerusalem on that Saturday night if you were a Roman soldier and suddenly saw a man in full battle gear coming toward you about ten feet off the ground? I mean just floating, boy! With his beard, blood stains all over it and scars all over his face, he would pull out that old sword and say, “Halt there, brother.” Boy, that’d turn you on, wouldn’t it? Joshua up from the dead! Bodies arisen and seen! Can’t you imagine how that thing was?

Imagine those priests going down to that temple and seeing that veil rent and seeing into the Holy of Holies without dropping dead. One of them said, “Good night, we’re going to die.” One of them said, “We’re not dead. Something’s wrong.” Another one said, “Why, the Lord’s presence must have left it. Uh oh, uh oh, don’t tell the people that. Don’t tell them that! We can’t keep our jobs if we ever tell them that.”

They start out that temple, and about that time something comes floating in the air about fifteen feet above the ground. It has on flowing robes and that breastplate and the holiness of the Lord across that; it’s Aaron the High Priest, boy. Old Testament saints come up from the dead. Aaron comes floating and says, “Well, what kind of priests have we got here?” Boy, that would turn you on!

So the graves came open and the bodies of the saints that slept arose and were seen in the city following His resurrection. This is resurrection number two. When Christ came up from the dead, He didn't come up alone. The Old Testament saints came up with Him. And if you went out there and saw that graveyard all plowed with graves, you'd find the tombstones turned over, empty holes in the ground, slabs knocked off to one side, and you'd find some loved ones gone.

Three

All right, Resurrection Number Three. In resurrection number three, we have a spiritual resurrection. This is the resurrection of the Christian. **“But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus”** (Eph. 2:4–6). Now, this means that when Christ saved you, He took you out from among “dead” people and gave you “life.”

Take your Bibles and turn to Romans 6. In Romans 6:3 he says, **“Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death?”** Come on down to Romans 6:1–7 and notice that the Christian is a dead man. He's dead and his life is hid with Christ. He that is dead is free from sin.

Now, we preachers talk about what you folks are doing that's wrong, and that's our job. We tell you that you ought to do right, and that's our job. But sometimes we don't tell you how to do it. Now, I'll tell you how to do right, and I'll tell you how to stay on top if you'll listen to me. Take Romans 6 and come on down to verse 11 that says, **“Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.”** See that verse right there? That's the secret of getting victory over sin. The secret is to reckon yourself dead. You say, “Well, who wants to be dead?” Man, you're never more alive in this world than when you reckon yourself dead! You are never more dead than when you reckon yourself alive as a child of God.

I know why young people don't want to get right. It's like dying! Isn't it like dying? I mean, really; you say, “I'm too young to die.” I understand it. I understand it perfectly. But that's the way to get victory over sin.

The old flesh says, “Gotta have some, gotta have some. Need it, gotta have it.” You say, “Shut up, you're dead.” Flesh says, “I'm not dead, man! Look at me, look at me! I've got appetites. I need this! I need that! I need this!”

You say, “Shut up, you're dead. God says you're dead; I believe it! God says Christ died for me. I believe it. That's how I'm saved. God says you're dead—that's how to have victory over sin. You're dead!”

The flesh says, “If I were dead how, could I move?”

I say, “I don’t know whether you’re moving or not, but the Bible says you’re a corpse; so shut up and lie down.”

And the old flesh says, “If I’m a corpse, how come I’ve been talking to you?”

You say, “I don’t know, but I’m going to quit talking to you.”

Do you know something? That dialogue is true of every Christian. When you got saved, do you know what the Lord did with your old body? He nailed it. Paul said, **“I am crucified with Christ...”** (Gal. 2:20). You know what I am? I am a zombie! I’m a living dead man! That’s right.

Christ said about one bunch of people, **“Let the dead bury their dead...”** (Luke 9:60). They moved and they were dead. I’m moving and I’m dead. The only thing about me is I’ve got a dead body and a live spirit. An unsaved man has a live body and a dead spirit. See the difference? And when you get saved the Lord takes that old man and crucifies him and nails him up. I don’t care how much that old man hollers, screams, moans, and groans, or how much time you spend running errands for that corpse, as far as God is concerned, when you get saved you’re dead. You say, “Well, I’m full of life.” You just think you’re full of life. You know what you’ve got there? You’ve got a chicken with its head cut off and it’s still moving.

Do you know the difference between a saved young person and a lost young person? When you get right down to it, there isn’t a great deal of difference outside as far as you can tell sometimes, but there’s one great difference inside. If you’re saved, you have now in your body a check; it’s a sheriff and a guard that an unsaved young person doesn’t have. Now, I’m not saying you listen to Him all the time. I’m not saying you obey Him all the time, but he’s there. He’s there. Now, if you want to spend the next twenty years serving a corpse, go on and do it. It’s a free country. But, you should be able to find something better to do than run errands for a corpse. Surely!

It’s like two colored fellows down south one time. They got a watch that wouldn’t work. (You’ve probably heard this, but it illustrates my point real well.) They took the watch apart to find out why it didn’t work, and they found a dead fly in there. And one of them said, “Well, no wonder it don’t work. The engine driver am dead!” And you know, when you got saved the Holy Spirit came into you, and now “De engine driver am dead.” The new engine driver is Jesus. All right, old engine driver, you’re dead. You know what you are? You’re a zombie!

Do you know when you get in trouble? I’ll tell you exactly when you get in trouble: when you go back and try to crawl into the grave God pulled you out of and get to messing around with that corpse. That’s when you get into trouble, isn’t it? You get into trouble with the body, don’t you? **“For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not. For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do. Now if I do that I would not, it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me”** (Rom. 7:18–20).

You know, if I could get rid of my body, my problems would be solved. I can't remember one problem I've got that isn't connected with this cotton pickin' body. If I could just get rid of it, I would have it made! And I won't get rid of it until I'm dead physically. **"I find then a law, that, when I would do good, evil is present with me. For I delight in the law of God after the inward man: But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death? I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin"** (Rom. 7:21–25). Did you know that every Christian is a zombie? He's half alive and half dead.

Why, back in the old days when the Romans would capture a famous prisoner, many times they would take him and tie him to a corpse—lash him to a corpse—and leave him there on the battlefield; if the guy would get up, he'd have to move 200 pounds chained to him to get off the battlefield. Very few of them ever did. Most of them laid out there and rotted with the corpse. There were times they would lie there two days without water and too weak to move and get away; they had to lie there next to a stinking corpse three or four days and rot with it. Did you know that's the condition of every saved person? That's my condition. Do you now what I'm chained to? I'm chained to a rotten, stinking, putrefying corpse. Paul said, **"O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death?"** (Rom. 7:24) Now, you get a hold on that and you get a hold on something. Next time that thing starts, "I want, I want, I want, I want." "Shut up, you're dead!" Reckon it dead. Reckon it dead.

Paul said, **"Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light."** (Eph. 5:14) Rise from the dead. He said, "Get up." And that wasn't written to unsaved people. That was written to saved people. Picture the Lord trying to get this fellow up and take him away; the fellow keeps looking back at the hole in the ground where he was buried. Folks, that's where your old corpse is.

One night an old drunk started through a graveyard; he went through there at night, and a fella had gone ahead of him and fallen into one of those open graves and couldn't get out of it. That old wino came walking through that graveyard—it was winter time—and that open grave was right next to him. As he went by he heard a voice say, "Brrrrr, it's cold down here. Brrrrr, it's cold down here." And that old drunk went over and looked down into that dark hole and couldn't see anything. Down there that guy was pacing up and down and slapping his arms together and saying, "Brrr, it's cold down here. Brrr, it's cold down here." That old drunk looked down into the dark and after a while he said, "Well, no wonder you're cold. You kicked all the dirt off ya." And do you know something? You know why some of you folks are cold? You kicked all the dirt off ya. The Lord buried you, covered you up, and said, "That takes care of him!" and you're back there scratching around, trying to revive the corpse.

Every Christian is a living dead man.

No wonder God's people are said to be peculiar people. Boy, if you bury a guy today

and three days later he shows up, that'd put your hair on end, wouldn't it? And no wonder this world doesn't think much of us. Why, you know, if you're the Christian you ought to be, the world thinks you stink. That's right! If you live for God, they call you a fanatic; if you don't they call you a hypocrite. You can't win either way. You might just as well live for God and raise a stink and just let it stink. The Bible says over there in 2 Corinthians 2:15, **“For we are unto God a sweet savour of Christ...”** **“To the one we are the savour of death unto death; and to the other the savour of life unto life...”** (see 2 Cor. 2:16). Go on and put up a stink.

We scare them, too. I scare folks. I really do! I don't mean to half as much as I do. I'm not as mean as I look or talk, but I scare people half to death sometimes. I listen to tapes I made right after I was saved; I almost get seared listening to them. I didn't think I sounded like that. Did you ever hear yourself on tape? Tape your voice sometime. Isn't it a shock? Man, I listened to that thing, and I said, “That ain't me. That ain't me on that thing.” Sounded like a Marine drill sergeant on that tape. I said, “I don't talk like that. I'm always real sweet.” But, every Christian is a living dead man; we scare them; we upset them; we disturb them—just like a corpse would scare you if it suddenly showed up in the wrong place.

I want to tell you about one incident that I saw in the newspaper. A hearse went from Washington, D.C. down to Atlanta; there were two drivers, a white fellow and a colored fellow. They had to deliver a corpse to a funeral home in Atlanta. They took that hearse with the corpse down through the Great Smokey drive (the Skyline Drive). They went along there changing off places in the car—one of them sleeping and one of them driving. North of Asheville someplace (the colored man was asleep and the white man was driving), they went by a hitchhiker on the road.

The white guy felt sorry for him. There was a rain storm, and he said, “Buddy, you can get in, but you'll have to get in the back, and there's a cadaver back there, a corpse.”

The hitchhiker, soaking wet, said, “Well, it don't make no difference to me, man.” So he got in the back of the hearse.

They went on down to Hendersonville and started around those hairpin turns, coming down to Greenville at about two in the morning. About the time they started down through there, in the middle of the night, the white fellow woke the colored fellow up and said, “It's your turn to drive now.” So the white fellow went to sleep and the colored guy started driving, not knowing that they had a live hitchhiker in the back.

Well, they drove down around one of those hairpin turns and the guy in the back started wanting a cigarette. He knocked on that glass door between the driver and the back. That old colored boy looked around and then back; that fellow in the back knocked on the glass again, and that old colored boy got his eyes settled back on the road, staring and sweating like a horse.

That fellow in the back pulled open that glass door and tapped him on the shoulder and said, “Buddy, how far is it to Hendersonville?” Screech! That colored boy slammed

on the brakes and got out of that hearse and they didn't find him for three days. When I read that article it was two days old, and they hadn't found him yet, man.

Did you know that's how it should be with God's people? You know, when we come into a room with a Bible under our arm, we should scare them half to death, because we're walking corpses. We're zombies!

Turn to Ephesians 2 and look at verses 1–7. Notice that this resurrection is a spiritual resurrection. Verse 6 says, **“And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus.”** Both of the others were literal. This one is spiritual. This is the resurrection of the believer. That's a spiritual resurrection. The other two are physical.

Four

The resurrection I'm going to talk about now is a national resurrection. It is Resurrection Number Four. Turn to Romans 11:25–26. **“For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in. And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob.”** In that passage he's telling you plainly that some day there's going to be a resurrection of Israel as a nation.

Take your Bible and turn to Ezekiel 37 and read verses 1 through 20. Notice when Ezekiel speaks of this resurrection, he calls it the **“valley which was full of bones.”** Ezekiel got out there in the valley and saw all those bones; they were dried and their hope was cut off. Ezekiel said, “What are you going to do with those bones?” The Lord said, **“Son of man, can these bones live?”** And he said, **“O Lord God, thou knowest.”** And the Lord said, **“Prophecy upon these bones....”** And Ezekiel prophesied, and a wind came and breathed upon them, and there stood upon their feet a great army. And when the Lord interpreted that dream to Ezekiel, He said, “Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel, and I'm going to bring them back into their own land and set them on their feet and restore them.” That speaks about a national resurrection of Israel. God's going to take the nation of Israel, resurrect it nationally, bring it back, put it back in the Promised Land.

Listen, I'm talking to a bunch of kids here this morning, you're hopped up on cars and clothes, and you're hopped up on sports; and the greatest event that has taken place on this earth in 1920 years took place right under your noses, and some of you missed it. In 1948 those Jews went back and started over again. They hadn't been a nation since 606 B.C. That's 2,500 years—and you saw it! And your eyes were every other place in the world except on Israel. That Book says they would go back, and they went back.

Why, preachers for years said they weren't going back. Postmillennial and Amillennial preachers said, “There's no such thing as the restoration of Israel. It's to be

spiritualized. God's all through with the nation politically.”

The *Amplified* version says in 1 Thessalonians 2 (concerning the Jew), “But God’s wrath has come upon them at last—completely and forever.” That’s the biggest lie ever hatched out of Hell! The wrath of God did not come upon them forever. It came to the full, but not forever.

Someday God’s going to restore them spiritually. Right now they have been restored nationally. They are back there in their homeland. You kids have lived to see that take place in your generation and probably never even grasped the significance of it. You’re so wrapped up in me, me, me, me, me, me, me. Get your eyes off “me” and get them out there and find out what’s going on.

All right, Ezekiel said there stood upon their feet a great army. The Bible speaks of the restoration of the Jew. The Jew is the only nation on earth that God deals with in that fashion. No other nation has His promises. No other nation is promised a second chance. The Bible says that all the nations that forget God shall be turned into Hell, but not Israel. Israel helped crucify Christ, rejected the Messiah; and yet, the Bible tells us that God is going to restore the land nationally and restore the people spiritually. They’re going to turn to Jesus Christ and trust Him as their Saviour. That will take place in the next twenty years.

Back in 1918 when World War I was over, they signed what was called the Balfour Declaration. Some of those fellows got together and said, “We’re going to give the land of Israel back to the Jews.” And then the Grand Mufti of Arabia showed up in the House of Parliament. He came up there and said, “Peace be to you,” you know, and talked about Standard Oil, Rockefeller, and all the oil you’d miss if the Jews got a hold of that place. The folks in England reneged on the Balfour Declaration and said, “The Jew can’t have it.” So, when the ship loads of Jews came to Palestine and tried to get off and get on the beach, they wound up in British concentration camps—not German—*British*; I’ve seen the barbed wire rolled in on them. Some of those ships tried to find a port in Italy, Spain, and Africa and couldn’t land; and some of those Jews that tried to go back to Palestine in 1918 sailed halfway around the world. Shanghai was the only port that took them in. About the time England reneged on the Balfour Declaration, the Lord said, “I’ll tend to you, brother.” The Bible says, “**And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee**” (see Gen. 12:3). The Lord reached over there to old Goebbels, Goering, and Adolph and said, “Come on, boys. Get the Luftwaffe ready! We’ve got a little bombing to do.” Down the bombs came! Down they came! When they got through with England, brother, it was blood, sweat and tears.

Do you know what Hitler did with the Jews in Germany? He gassed and killed about six million of them. Some of his men cut off their skins and made lamp shades out of them. They took women and children and gassed them to get rid of them. When the corpses would come out, they’d wash them off with a hose and knock their teeth out and get the gold; and take their hair and cut it off and stuff mattresses with it; and then burn the bodies and make soap out of them and profit on it. I’ve seen the bill of receipt. “Such

and such a prisoner admitted such and such a day—cost of maintenance, cost of food, amount of time, amount of labor, how much it cost to have him executed—net profit 1,000 marks.” Six million of them right off, just like a bunch of animals.

About the time they started that, do you know what the Lord did? He stepped over here to America and said, “I’ve got a job for you.” B29s, B17s, over they went, boy. And I’ll tell you, when they got through with the incendiary bombing of Hamburg, there were people just being shoveled into bath tubs. I mean literally, brother. That phosphorous finishes you. You’re just like cream of wheat.

If you’ve got that Bible, you’ve got the key to the whole thing. World War I was to get the land ready for the Jew; World War II was to get the Jew ready for the land. America, England, Germany, Russia, Japan, and China don’t even figure. You go by the Book! They wouldn’t give them the land before World War I. The Lord said, “I’ll fix you.” Nearly every country in the world was involved in that war (1914–1918), and the land was ready. About the time they got that land ready, the Lord said to that Jew, “You go back to that land (1929–1933).” And the Jew said, “But business is good.” Yeah! They owned about half of Germany. You won’t read about that in the newspaper!

And so, you have World War II, and boy, when old Adolph, Himmler, Eichmann, and Hess got through with them, they were ready to go back to that land! You bet your boots, they were ready to go back to that land.

Somebody said to me one time, “Are you a Jew?”

I said, “I’m a saved Jew.”

And they said, “With a name like Ruckman, you must be a Jew.”

I told them sure just like Eichmann and Bormann—good Jewish names. Those names are so close, you can hardly tell them apart. But I love the Jewish people. I’m not anti Semitic. I don’t buy this Protocols and Kaiser junk and all this stuff Herbert or Garner Ted Armstrong put out—I don’t fool with that. I don’t fool with that magazine that comes out of New Jersey called *Truth*, in which everybody in the State Department is a Jew, everybody that is a president is a Jew, and everybody you don’t like has got Jewish blood in them. I’m not that way.

My Bible says, “**As concerning the gospel, they are enemies for your sakes: but as touching the election, they are beloved for the fathers’ sake**” (Rom. 11:28) You gotta love ‘em. You gotta love ‘em. And they’re the hardest people in the world to love. My goodness, they’re unlovable! Did you ever talk to an unsaved Jewish pawn broker in Chicago? Oh, what a nasty character, man. You talk to the guy five minutes, and you just feel like reaching out and poking him in the face. But you have to love them.

Do you know why Gentiles don’t like Jews? Because Jews can make money and Gentiles love money! That’s right, brother, that’s right. One time a Gentile said to a Jew in a bus, “Are you a Jew?” The man said, “Yes.” And the man said, “We don’t have any Jews in our village.” And the Jew said, “That’s vy it’s still a village.” A lot of truth in that.

Did you hear the one about Pat Boone singing “Peace in the Valley”? Ten thousand Catholics joined the Protestant church. Then Bing Crosby sang “Ave Maria,” and ten thousand Protestants joined the Catholic Church. Then Eddie Fisher sang “There’s a Gold Mine in the Sky,” and ten thousand Jews joined the Air Force.

That’s funny. And if there’s a Jew here, it’s still funny. When you get to the place that you can’t laugh at your own race and your own human frailties, you’re in trouble. Did you know that? If I was a Jew, I’d think that was funny. I’ve heard folks tell jokes about Baptist preachers, and they were funny.

The guy will sit there and say, “Well, I don’t believe in making jokes about...” Ah, you stuck up snob, you. We’ve got a whole nation of people like that. “The human dignity of man. Human dignity in man, man, man. Ah, phuh—nuts! There is not a man in the world that is dignified all the time.

Did you ever stop to think about what a thing it would be if I just took a motion camera picture of you for just fourteen hours from the time you got up until the time you got to bed at night? Wouldn’t that be a dignified film, brother? All this strut! I never saw a man in my life about to vomit who took time to get dignified! Did you?

I don’t mean to be destructive, but the thing about it is, you know, I’m a revolutionary. I’m just like these hippies. Really, I am—except, I’m revolting against something else. They’re revolting against the Bible and God and the word of God and the Lord, and I rebel against sham and show and pretense and all this man, the dignity-of-man, the sacredness-of-man, the glory-of-man stuff. Well, to Hell with the dignity of man! You say, “What’d you say?” I said, “To Hell with it, boy.” You don’t think I said that, do you? I said, “To Hell with it, brother.” You know what I’m interested in? I’m interested in magnifying the Lord Jesus Christ and that Book. And the dignity of man can wait! And that means any of them and all of them.

All this strut! All this “Here comes lovely Tammy Wynett to sing.” Why don’t they ever say “homely”? Why don’t they say, “And now here comes homely Tammy Wynett. Sing it, homely.”

That’s what gripes young people. They see too much pretense. They want something real. Well, that’s the way I am. I want something real. Man, if you can’t see the holes in your armor, I can see mine. If you can’t see the holes in your armor and realize sometimes you’re just a blank fool and not the least bit dignified, you don’t have good sense. And I mean that just the way I said it.

The only perfect man that ever lived on this earth was the Lord Jesus Christ. I’ll lift Him up! I’ll brag about Him! You’ll never hear me joke about Him! You’ll never hear me make fun of that word of God as it stands. But the rest of it—well.

Did you hear the one about the crowd that was waiting for the pope in New York? A crowd of pagans had been waiting for the pope in New York, and planes kept coming in, and a man standing there said, “Is that him?” And four or five planes landed, and nothing

happened. One Catholic said, “Hasn’t he come yet?” The man said, “No.” After a while in came a great big old Boeing Douglas, and the man said, “Is that him?” He said, “No, that isn’t him.” He said, “How do you know it isn’t him?” He said, “Well, I know the plane.” Finally a plane came sailing across there, and he said, “That’s the one right there.” And the first man said, “How do you know that’s the one?” He said, “Well, look at the side of the plane. It says TWA—Top Wop Arrives.” Got Italian blood? All right, I love you, nothing personal meant, see? How many of you thought that was funny? Well, sure it’s funny, man! You can call me a kraut or a Boche, and it isn’t going to get me mad. What’s wrong with America, anyway? All that strut with that religious hypocrite getting out a plane on a carpet—“the top wop.” That’s good. That’s good.

Do you know why that’s good? Because that puts the thing in the proper perspective. Let God be magnified, brother, and let the rest go down. That’s what I like about *Mad* magazine. A lot of my preacher brethren are real mad at me because I read *Mad* magazines. I know it’s got dirty stuff in it. You can’t buy anything completely clean these days. But I know one thing. It doesn’t glamorize dirt. I notice another thing. It puts the proper perspective on those who peddle dirt. So I read them once in a while. I take two magazines. I take *Mad* magazine and *American Rifleman*. I read *Mad* magazine to find out what this generation is thinking. I don’t want to lose contact with my audience, and that’s the way you stay in contact. I buy the *American Rifleman* so I’ll be ready when it comes to a head, you know.

I always do appreciate one thing in *Mad*. In the last ten years they’ve revived this business of printing a photograph of some ancient movie and then putting some silly caption on it. You’ve seen those things. I’ll never forget one there. It showed two pilots in the front of this bomber—typical World War II picture. Bullet holes were all over the cabin. One guy (co pilot) was slumped over with a scarf around his neck and blood running down his face, and the pilot turned and looked at him, and said, “Boy, if you think this is rough, wait till we get out of the hangar.”

Five

Resurrection Number Five. Now, this is the big one. I taught you that the first part of the first resurrection was the **“firstfruits.”** Then, I taught you that the second part was the harvest. At the harvest the Lord Jesus Christ will return, and the Bible says He’ll return **“with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words”** (1 Thess. 4:16–18).

This means that I have a command from God to comfort anybody right now. The words of comfort that I have are these: it’s not going to last forever. You’re not always going to be tempted. You’re not always going to fail your Lord. You’re not always going to be lonely. You’re not always going to be frustrated. Your dreams are not always going

to go up in smoke. There's going to be an end to it one of these days. The Lord's going to come, and out we're going.

I've seen the old turbine for the Lexington carrier in Pensacola. Boy, you talk about power! One of those reduction gears in that flat top is as big as your whole choir loft. You never saw such power. Those boilers in that thing get up to such pressure that if one of those pipes blew steam out it would cut your arm right in two—just the steam coming out from it. Power, brother. They found men in World War II in the Coral Seas who were in boiler rooms when those things exploded. They found corpses leaning up against shafts and doors, and when they touched them all the skin just fell off with the meat and left the bones standing there. In just a matter of a few seconds, brother, the man was boiled and cooked. That's some power, that's some power! I fly a lot in the big DC7s and these jets. They get out there on that runway, and they start warming up—zzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzz. When they start winding up, you can almost see the wings flapping. It always reminds me of a big bird about ready to take off. I look around on that plane. There are one hundred and fifty people on that plane. With luggage, that's almost two hundred pounds apiece. I'll say, "How in the world does this thing get off the ground with twelve tons in it?" Twelve tons just going up like that. That's power!

But do you know something? The Bible says, **"But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you."** (Rom. 8:11) That means that if you're saved, if you've received Christ as your Saviour, you have a power in your body that can get you from this ground to the Andromeda Nebula, beyond the farthest galaxy, the farthest constellation, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye. Now, that's power! That's power! These guys down at Cape Canaveral are just messing around. Run to the moon—run back—run to the moon—run back—kid stuff, kid stuff. When I leave, I'm going so fast their rockets are going to be like a tricycle trying to catch up with a jet, brother. I'm going to leave the moon so far behind I won't see it looking backwards, much less forwards. You say, "You're crazy." We'll see! We'll see! I have in me the same spirit that raised Jesus up from the dead, and if He came up, I'm going up.

One of these days, He's going to come and I'm going to leave. Do you know why? My body has been purchased. I talked to you about that old sin cursed body a while ago. You see this body? It's dead. But I'll tell you one thing about it. It's redeemed! It's been bought. **"For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's"** (1 Cor. 6:20). Yeah, I've been saved. I'm saved, but that body hasn't been saved. That body is going to a hole in the ground. But it's been paid for. Did you ever get something in layaway? You paid for it and then got it later. Well, this body is paid for. **"In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise, Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory"** (Eph. 1:13–14).

I was going down the street the other day and saw an old rickety jalopy go by. It had a sign on the back that said, "Don't laugh—It's paid for." And that's the truth. Don't laugh

at my body. It's paid for. It's a mess—feet too wide, legs too short, waist too long, neck too thick, head too big, ankles and wrists too thin, but it's paid for. And someday I'll get the purchased possession. **“And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body”** (Rom. 8:23).

An old jalopy went across one of those toll bridges in Florida. It went across there just one piece at a time. And when the driver got up to the toll gate, the guy said, “Twenty five cents.” And he said, “Sold!” That's the way it is with some of these bodies. How many of you have received Christ as your Saviour? OK, your body is paid for. It's not any good, but it's paid for; and the Lord will get you a new one some day. Paul says in 1 Corinthians 15:52, **“In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.”**

Take your Bible and turn to 1 Corinthians 15 and begin at verse 50. First Corinthians 15:50–55, **“Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God...Behold, I show you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.”** And he says when this thing takes place, **“For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?”**

Two classes. He said when He comes there will be people in the graveyard corrupting. They'll come out of the grave. The grave loses the victory. That's the first class. Then there are going to be people standing here who will not be subject to death. They go up without dying. **“Oh death, where is thy sting?”**

Two classes. Christ said in John 11:26, **“And whosoever liveth and believeth in me (one class) shall never die....”** In John 11:25, **“he that believeth in me, though he were dead (second class) yet shall he live.”**

Two kinds. Paul said, **“Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them (two classes) in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words”** (1 Thess. 4:17–18).

In other words, one of these days or one of these nights, there's going to be a clap of thunder, a flash of lightning, and you're going to hear your name called. Christ said that **“he calleth his own sheep by name, and leadeth them out...and the sheep follow him: for they know his voice”** (John 10:3–4). You'll hear that voice say, **“Come up hither,”** and away you'll go.

Kids say, “What's wrong with this? What's wrong with that? What's wrong with this?” Let me ask you something, kid. Would you like to have Him find you doing what some of

you have been doing when He comes? Would you be glad to see Jesus Christ next Saturday night about 11:30? How about Friday night about 10:30? If you're going to be caught up **“in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye”** and stand before Him, would you be glad He caught you in that kind of position? Kids don't think. They just figure “He is not going to come tonight.” But, He might! He might! Do you reckon if Christ came right now the Beatles would be real happy about it? You reckon Tom Jones would have a spasm? He'd probably have a spasm, but he wouldn't go a foot off the ground.

“In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye,” Jesus is going to come and we're going to leave. How'd you like to have your mouth full of liquor about the time the Lord Jesus showed up? Or take the speeders and the trippers and the lift me ups and red jackets the yellow jackets and the goof balls and the red devils. How'd you like to have a mouthful of them about the time He came? You'd have to swallow them quick, wouldn't you? Just inhale that cigarette smoke! The Lord comes! He's coming! I've preached about the Second Coming of Christ nine hundred times and He hasn't come yet, but He's coming.

Did you ever bury a baby? You will see your baby again. Did you ever bury a mother or daddy? You're going to see them again. Did you ever bury a wife, husband, or loved one? You're going to see them again. Why, God thinks so much of you and your feelings for loved ones and the little personal things about life that you think He's not interested in, that He allows you to see your friends and loved ones before you see Him. The text said we'll **“be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air.”** Meeting the Lord is second—not first. You meet them first.

I heard McGinley say, “Boy, when I get caught up in the air and go up to meet the Lord, I'm gonna stick my tongue out at the devil as I go up.” Wouldn't that be something to be sailing through the air and look back and know that you're through with that God forsaken mess forever and ever and ever? Did you ever stop and think of all the problems that will be solved if Christ would come right now? I can't understand why a man would get up and sing “Wait a little longer, please Jesus,” unless he's got rocks for brains. The last prayer in the Bible is, **“Even so, come, Lord Jesus.”**

Now, you that just got saved here last night and the night before, wouldn't it be wonderful if Christ came right now? You wouldn't have time to backslide. You wouldn't have time to get persecuted. You wouldn't live to see inconsistent Christians. You wouldn't learn how to hide behind hypocrites. Boy, what a blessing it would be to go home the same day you got saved! But, the Lord lets us live it out.

When I got saved over twenty years ago, I thought every Christian was an angel. That's the truth. I came down to the front row of the Brent Baptist Church, had on a black shirt, yellow necktie, gray suit, a moustache, and four cigars in both pockets, twenty eight inch waist line; so mean I didn't love myself. And I came down there, stood, and shook hands with those old ladies going by and the little kids. I came forward that night with a twelve-year-old girl. I was shaking their hands there at the altar, and the Christians were telling me, “Well, God bless you Brother Ruckman, glad you got saved,” and all. Why, when I was shaking hands with those saints, I thought I was shaking hands with angels.

And if you had told me that some of those old women were talking about each other, that some of those kids were necking out there in the cars in the parking lot between services, and some of those deacons there were trying to steal money up there in the back room, I would have been ready to shoot you! But, live and learn. You live and learn as time goes by. Kind of kills the joy, doesn't it? Kinda kills the joy.

I think about that dying thief. You know, that fellow was one of the most blessed men in the Bible. That dying thief got saved, and just as soon as he got saved, he went home. Wouldn't that be wonderful? But the Lord lets us live it out. Of course, He does it so we can get rewards and get something more than just salvation. You know why He does it. But I'd just as soon He wouldn't do it. I'd just as soon go home right now. I don't have any plans. Folks are always planning what they're going to do here. They are always "setting goals." I have no plans. I'm the most disorganized fellow you ever saw in your life. I got no plans for nothin! If the Lord comes right now, I've got nothing I'm doing that I can't drop. Nothing! I don't have any aims, any goals, or any "plans." You can just have the whole thing. If the Lord comes before I get through here and I leave this place, if any of you get down to Pensacola, you can take the whole house, brother. Got a four wheel drive Jeep Scout in the yard, all kinds of fishing equipment, shotguns, tape recorders, God knows what. Just help yourself, man. Where I'm going I won't ever need them again. Won't have to worry about making time payments on them.

Six

All right, take your Bible and turn to Revelation 11. I'm on Resurrection Number Six. In Revelation 11, we read about two witnesses. There is not much doubt about who the two witnesses are. Both Elijah and Moses were on Mt. Sinai forty days and forty nights. Enoch wasn't. Both Elijah and Moses have ministers that follow them in their work. Enoch did not. Both Elijah and Moses cross water miraculously. Enoch did not. Both Elijah and Moses are without food forty days and forty nights. Enoch wasn't. Elijah calls down fire from heaven. Moses smites the earth with plagues.

The reason some people think one witness is Enoch is because they think "**it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment**" (Heb. 9:27); and, therefore, since Enoch did not die, he's going to die. But that won't do. There has to be one man in the Bible who never dies, because he has to be a type of those living when Christ comes. That's Enoch.

Elijah didn't die, but he'll die in the Tribulation. Come on down in Revelation 11 and look at verses 6–10. Doesn't it say that those two witnesses get their heads cut off and that they lie there in the street? Moses and Elijah get their heads cut off, and it says that in Revelation 20:4. They are beheaded. But, notice in Revelation 11:8–10 it keeps saying, "**Their dead bodies,**" "**their dead bodies,**" "**their dead bodies.**" Why does it say that? Because their heads are over there and their bodies are over here.

Elijah and Moses come back to preach in the Tribulation. They come down and start

preaching “repent,” and 144,000 Jews get saved and start going out and preaching the gospel (like Paul) to the Gentiles. The Antichrist tries to get them and can’t get them. Souls get saved right and left and get baptized in Jordan to get rid of their leprosy. (And they’ll get leprosy. See Revelation 16:2.) Finally, at the end of that Tribulation, the Antichrist will kill those two fellows, cut off their heads around Christmas time. Doesn’t it say in Revelation 11:10 that they **“shall rejoice over them, and make merry, and shall send gifts one to another”**?

Around Christmas time—that’s when they killed the Christians in the arena—Baal’s birthday—they’ll kill old Elijah and Moses and cut off their heads. Their heads roll in the street. And while a great crowd gazes at them a cloud lifts them up. **“A great voice from heaven saying unto them, Come up hither. And they ascended up to heaven in a cloud; and their enemies beheld them”** (Rev. 11:12). Boy, you talk about horror stories, mystery stories, adventure stories! Do you see where they get all their plots? They get them out of the Bible.

How would you like to be watching Telstar. Here’s Jerusalem downtown, “And now, Pinkley and Frontley bring you the latest report of the week.” The news reporter goes to downtown Jerusalem. There’s a body over here, a body over there. The announcer is talking away, “We can celebrate this as a great day and a double thanksgiving of not only the birthday of our Lord and Saviour (oh yeah, they keep up the profession, man, they keep it up) but also the time when these two false prophets who were anti humanitarian, anti socialist, troublemaking, warmongers were killed; and here are the bodies.” Body over here, head over here; head over here lying in the gutter singing, “I ain’t got no body and no body cares for me!” And about that time that camera just stops, and all of a sudden that head goes pop! back on that body. Boy, there’s a telecast for you! Not made in Hollywood, either. I mean the head just goes back on the body, the body stands up and says, “Bye, bye,” and goes straight up in the air! Telstar is taking pictures of that thing up in the air like that! That’s where it is. It’s in the Book. It’s in the Book. It’s in the Book. You want exciting reading? It’s in the Book.

Kids read all this science fiction slop and buy all this Star Wars junk and think they’re reading something original. There’s nothing original about this stuff. Why, most every detective story, every western story, and every murder story you ever read in your life or saw on that boob tube was a picture of a hero (type of Christ), a heroine (type of church) and a villain (type of the devil). The woman was in danger of losing her money or her property or her love. And three-quarters of the way through the movie the hero was put out of action, and you thought he was done away with. Then, he made a comeback at the last minute. What is that? That’s King James 1611 AV, book of Revelation. You won’t get around it. All this stuff—watch all this TV—my goodness, man. “TV or not TV, that is the question.”

I know a preacher that spent so much time with TV that he got up to announce his text and said, “Let’s turn to 2 Kings, channel 7,” for the chapter on it. One time I had a meeting in Georgia, and I never will forget it. It was the house of an unsaved man. His family was saved. While we were eating, a TV repairman came in then took the television out the

back door. I said to the unsaved man, “Are you getting it fixed?”

The man of the house said, “Nope,” and went on eating.

About two minutes later I said, “You gonna get a new one?”

He said, “Nope,” and went on eating. About three minutes later he said, “You want to know what I’m doing with that?”

I said, “Yeah, what are you having done with it?” He said, “Well, preacher, I had a family before I got that blankety blank thing. Since I got that thing, my kids won’t come to dinner. Their eyes are wearing out. They don’t do their studying. They won’t go outside and play. They’re ruining their health. They don’t sleep at night, and they have nightmares. I had a family before I got that blankety blank thing. I’m gonna have me one again,” and it went out the door.

I talked to some guy on the street the other day. He had one of these FM things up by his ear. He said, “Yeah, I’m saved, man, yeah, yeah, I’m saved, yeah, yeah.” My goodness man, he was twitching and jerking like he was having an epileptic fit. Now, how in the world are you going to get a good nights sleep after watching all that mess at 10 or 11 o’clock at night? You’ll be like that guy that I was talking about last week. He had watched “Combat” and after he turned it off and went to bed he was dreaming that he was going up a hill with a BAR, firing and going up that hill, changing clips. And right in the middle of going up that hill, ratt-a-tat, pow, pow, throwing those clips in the air, he heard his wife screaming. He woke up and found that all her hair curlers were gone. He’d been changing clips out of her hair.

All right, so, in the middle of the Tribulation Moses and Elijah are caught up to heaven. That’s the sixth resurrection.

Seven

Now, were ready for Resurrection Number Seven. Take your Bible and turn to Revelation 20. Revelation 20, verses 11–12, John says, **“And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.”** Revelation 20:15, **“And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire,”** this is the second death. He said, **“And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works”** (Rev.

20:13). This is the last resurrection. I’ve got six of them—this is resurrection number seven. This is a literal, physical resurrection, and at this resurrection, up come the unsaved dead. The saved dead went up over here in 1 Corinthians 15. Remember I showed you last

night about the firstfruits, harvest, gleanings. **“Come up hither.” “Come up hither.” “Come up hither.”** The expression, **“Come up hither”** occurs three times in the Bible—
if you’ve got the right Bible.

Now, it’s time for the last resurrection—the unsaved dead. Up they come. They’re judged according to their works. They’re punished according to their works. Some of them will get a hotter Hell than others, but they’re all lost. The purpose of this judgment is to determine how much punishment you will get. If you’re lost, this is your resurrection.

Some of you that haven’t gotten saved yet and are still fooling with it, I’m going to tell you what’s ahead for you. One of these days or one of these nights, you’re going to stand up there and face this thing. When you face God at this judgment, the passage doesn’t say there’s any earth to stand on. Didn’t it say heaven and earth fled away and no place was found for them? (Rev. 20:11) Do you know what those folks are standing on? They’re standing on nothing! There’s no planets or earth there. You’ll step out there in that white light and blink at that white light that no man can look into unless he is supernaturally sustained. You’ll hear that voice, sounding like Niagara Falls coming out of that light. You’ll drop that old head and look under your feet and there will be nothing under your feet as far as you can see. Twenty billion light years, brother—straight down. And then at last it’ll get through your old thick head that God is Creator and Sustainer, and without Him, you’ll drop. It’ll get home to you then. You don’t see it right now? You’ll see it then. You’ll take one look and you’ll say, “Why ain’t I falling?” Because the Lord will hold you up there just as long as He wants to, and when He’s through—down you go. Down you go!

You know, there’s a terrible picture of this in Matthew 22. Now, we know that Matthew 22 is not, doctrinally, the White Throne Judgment. It’s a scene that takes place at the end of the Tribulation, but in Matthew 22 is a picture of how an unsaved man is going to appear before God. The passage says that when he came to the wedding without a wedding garment, he was speechless. The king of the guests said, **“Bind him hand and foot, and take him away, and cast him into outer darkness; there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth. For many are called, but few are chosen”** (Matt. 22:13–14). God isn’t going to choose you unless you choose Him.

I’ll tell you how a wedding went back in those days. In those days when they had a wedding feast for a king, the servants would go out in the highways, byways, and hedges and invite people to come. When they went out there they had a wedding garment over their arm. It was of fine linen. Fine linen is the righteousness of saints (Rev. 19). They went out into the city, they stopped a fellow and said, “Hey, you want to go to a wedding?”

The man said, “Who’s getting married?”

He said, “Oh, the king’s son. The king’s got a son up there in the palace, and he’s holding the wedding for him.”

The fella said, “Yeah, I’d like to go.”

The servant said, “Well, here, take this robe and put it on. It’s your passport through the gate.”

The fella said, “That thing?”

The servant said, “Yeah, that thing. Put it on.”

The fella said, “How much is it worth?”

The servant said, “Well, you can’t buy it, so it’s free.”

The fella said, “How about the suit I’ve got on. It’s nicer looking. That thing looks like it came from Robert Hall. How about letting me go the way I am?”

And the servant said, “If you want to get into the marriage, you put on this linen robe.”

The fella said, “Well, I don’t think it would fit me.”

“You want to go?”

“Yeah.”

“Take it.”

“I’ll give you twenty dollars for it.”

“It’s not for sale. The king’s son bought it. If you want it, put it on. If you don’t, bye, bye.”

The fella said, “I wouldn’t be caught dead in that thing,” and went on down the street.

So the servants went on, and one of them stopped a young lady and said, “Young lady, would you like to go to a marriage?”

She said, “Well, who’s getting married?”

He said, “The king’s son. A lot of famous people are going to be there—archangels, David, Moses, Savonarola, General William Booth, Dwight L. Moody, Florence Nightingale, Fanny Crosby, all the good and just spirits of men made perfect from all ages. Food’s free.”

She said, “Well, what I gotta do to get in?”

“Nothing, just take this robe.”

“Well, it doesn’t look very stylish. Looks like a bed sheet.”

“Well, if you want to get in, you have to wear one of these.”

“Well, it wouldn’t appeal to me at all. It doesn’t fit me. It isn’t my style.”

And he said, “Well then, bye, bye.”

She said, “But I would like to go.”

“Sister, if you want to go, you wear one of these.”

“Well, it doesn’t show off my better points. It doesn’t compliment me. It doesn’t flatter me. I don’t think I could....”

“Well, OK, bye, bye.” He went on down the road.

And one of the servants stopped an old, one legged, one eyed tramp back in an alley by a garbage can, the rats running up and down there, and he said, “Hey, you want to go to a wedding?”

And that old bum said, “Ha, ha, ha, ha, me go to a wedding? Who’d want me at a wedding, man?”

And that servant said, “I’ve been trying to get folks to come all day to the king’s wedding. Do you want to go?”

Aren’t people strange? I’ve got written down in my Bible the Gallup Poll of 1959 about who Americans would like to have come to dinner at their house. Do you know where Jesus Christ was in that poll? He was number eleven. Do you know who was first? Abraham Lincoln. Abraham Lincoln used to be a bartender. Good old “honest Abe” from Illinois—no, no, that’s a lie. He wasn’t from Illinois. He was from Kentucky. Good old “honest Abe” that said, “Four score and seven years ago our forefathers brought forth upon this continent a new nation conceived in liberty and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.” That is not what they came over here for. That’s Karl Marx and the French Revolution—all men are created equal. You get the Mayflower Compact and see if you can find where your forefathers said, “all men are created equal.” Why that lying, good for nothing rascal! Listen, most of your forefathers came over here to get away from state religions. They came over here for freedom of worship, brother. Not for making all the black folks white, and the white folks red, and the red folks green, and the green folks chartreuse, and the chartreuse folks purple, and the purple folks mauve. Do you know who was second in that Poll? FDR—Franklin Delano Roosevelt, one of the greatest Communists that ever lived! You know who was number three in that poll? I think it was Teddy Roosevelt, and then Mrs. Eisenhower, Eisenhower, Mrs. Richard Nixon, and then number eleven, Jesus Christ. Do you know something? You people have had a gospel invitation offered to you, and some of you aren’t saved yet. Do you know what you’re like? You’re like a fellow standing out in the street and a guy coming by and saying, “Hey, you wanna go to a big blow out, big weiner roast, beer bust?”

You say, “Yeah, who’s gonna be there?”

The fellow says, “Oh, Richard Widmark, Burt Lancaster, Paul Newman, Marilyn Monroe (lately deceased), Bing Crosby, John L. Lewis, Walter Reuther, Charles de Gaulle, Ted Kennedy, John Lennon, Johnny Carson, Dean Martin, Bo Derek, Bobby Kennedy, Jackie, and all the rest of ‘em; and we’re gonna have buttermilk and sweet milk and Coca Cola and Pepsi and iced tea and coffee and corn on the cob and roast beef, BBQ beef, BBQ chicken, broiled chicken, fried chicken, chicken gumbo, chicken and rice, and chicken chicken, and blackeye peas, beans, purple hull peas, crowder peas, green peas, mashed potatoes, chow mein, sweet and sour pork, nachos, buritos, baked potatoes, broiled potatoes, fried potatoes, spinach, candied yams, okra, tacos and chili and spaghetti and ravioli and lasagna; and it’s all free.”

Now, you wouldn’t find five Americans that wouldn’t go to a blow out like that if they could do it free! Yet, do you know what the Lord does? The Lord spreads a table in the skies and says, “Look here. You come up here, and I’ll let you sit down with John Huss, Martin Luther, Savonarola, Ignatius, Peter, Paul, John, James, Matthew, David, Moses, and Chrysostom in the presence of cherubim, seraphim, the Trinity, and the archangel and all the good and just men of all ages. I’ll sit you down to a feast in the sky, the water of life, the bread of life. You’ll never get hungry again. You’ll never cry again. It’s free, it’s free, it’s free. All the things are ready. Put on the garment.”

You stand there and say, “Well, I don’t think I can live it. Too many hypocrites in the church.”

The king’s servant got down there in the back alley and said, “Hey, Mike, you want to go to a wedding?”

Old one-eyed Mike said, “Me go to a wedding, ha, ha, ha. That’s a good one.”

The servant said, “It’s free. All you have to do is put the robe on.”

He said, “Where’s it going to be?”

He said, “Up at the king’s palace, Mike. King’s having a marriage for his son. His son’s getting married pretty soon. There’s a special invitation for you to come.”

That old boy nearly had a heart attack from laughing so hard. He said, “Look at me, hand gone, lost it in a knife fight; no eye, put out in a fight with a beer bottle. Who’d want me in a place like that? I ain’t fit to get in a grease pit. Look at these clothes.”

And the servant said, “Boy, just put this blood bought garment over your shoulders, and you can walk right through the front gate.”

And that old bum took a look at that linen robe and suddenly he said, “I’ll take it!”

The Bible says the violent take the kingdom by force, boy (see Matt. 11:12). And while some of you good people are going to Hell waiting for a feeling or some other thing, us old bums are going right through the front gate.

Well, the king came in up there, and one fellow didn’t have on a wedding garment, “**And**

he saith unto him, Friend, how camest thou in hither not having a wedding garment?” And the Bible says, **“he was speechless”** (Matt. 22:12). Then he said to his servants, **“Bind him hand and foot...cast him into outer darkness; there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth. For many are called, but few are chosen”** (Matt. 22:13–14). I always draw angels with wings so people will know they’re angels, but no angels in the Bible have wings. All angels in the Bible are thirty three year old males without wings. (That’ll be very important in about the next twenty years. Just remember I said that, and then when the thing shows up, you’ll know what it is. But I put wings on them so you’ll know they’re angels.) And so he said, **“Bind him hand and foot, and take him away, and cast him into outer darkness; there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”**

“But, Lord, I was raised in the Baptist church.”

“Out. Cast him out.”

Down you go, twenty billion light years into the lake of fire, and as you fall, you scream, “AAaaaaaaaamen!” You’ll say it then! Maybe some of you think we’re kind of old fashioned to say, “Amen.” You’ll say “Amen” to your own damnation one of these days. The Lord will say, **“Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire”** (see Matt. 25:41). You’ll say, “Aaaaaaaaamen!” and off you’ll go. The Bible says, **“he was speechless”**—couldn’t answer.

He’ll say, “But Lord, what about the....”

“Out, out, out.”

“What about all these folks that think they are right and....”

“Get him out, out, throw him out! Junk. Trash, out! Don’t want him in the palace.”

“But Lord, I kept the golden rule. I went around some of those folks that say they’re Christians, and a lot of them don’t live as good as I do, and I don’t see why....”

“Out, out, get him out! Get him out! Get him out!”

“But Lord, I don’t think....”

“Out!”

And boy, they’ll take you hand and foot, and out you’ll go. Out you’ll go! The Bible says **“he was speechless.”**

All right, those are the details of the seven resurrections. Now, let me ask you this in closing. Which one are you going to make? You’re not going to make resurrection number four. That’s for a nation. You’re not going to make resurrection number six. It’s for

Tribulation saints. You're not going to make resurrection number two. That one is in the past, and it's for Old Testament saints. All right, there's only three you can make. And if you make resurrection number three, the spiritual resurrection, you'll make resurrection number five, the Rapture of the Body of Christ. If you come up from the dead now, you come up from the dead then. And if you don't, you'll be resurrected at the resurrection of the dead. To miss the last resurrection of the unsaved dead, you must receive the Lord Jesus and let him grant you a spiritual resurrection—a new birth—NOW.

Would You Like to Know

How to be Saved?

Those of you who have read this book are faced with a choice: to respect and believe what the Bible says, or to reject the word of God as unimportant and ignore it. Ultimately, your fate is entirely up to you: whether you wish to go to heaven, or whether you wish to remain lost in your sins and hell bound.

The final question is this: Where will you spend eternity?

- (1) Living with God in a perfect universe forever (Heaven).
- (2) Burning with Satan in fire and brimstone forever (Hell).

These are the only two options presented in the Bible, and the Bible has never been wrong about anything. If you wish to live with God, then you have to accept His terms.

Since you, as a human being, cannot make yourself holy (“**Not by works of righteousness which we have done...**” Titus 3:5), the Lord is ready to give you His Righteousness (His Goodness) instead. His Righteousness is contained in Jesus Christ, who went to the Cross “**to be sin for us...that we might be made the righteousness of God in him**” (2 Corinthians 5:21). Jesus Christ came to save you from hell when He suffered for your sin on the cross. If you receive Jesus Christ as your Saviour, then you receive perfect Righteousness and Holiness, so that you can please God and be acceptable in His sight. Any other attempt to gain God’s acceptance will not work. God “**now commandeth all men everywhere to repent**” (Acts 17:30). That means you have to give up your old way of thinking and living, and turn to God. The Bible says, “**For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved**” (Romans 10:13). That is the invitation. Neither your “church,” your “baptism,” nor your “good works” can save you: you must trust Jesus Christ alone, by grace through faith (Ephesians 2:8–9). It’s very simple. Wherever you are, bow your head and pray a simple prayer something like this:

“Lord Jesus, I know I am a sinner, and unless you save me, I am lost forever. I now come to you, the best way I know how, and ask you to save me. I receive you as my Saviour and trust you to forgive and justify me, and present me without fault before God’s throne in the day of Judgment.”

If you have done this, then you have made the greatest decision of your life. Don’t be ashamed of this decision. “**Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed**” (Romans 10:11). You should find a Bible-believing church and start attending that you

may grow (2 Peter 3:18). Also begin to read your Bible (Authorized King James Version) daily and talk to God in prayer. God has given you a brand new life (2 Corinthians 5:17); live it for Him.

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